

were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-620. A petition from a citizen of the State of Texas relative to immigrant workers; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted on September 7, 2000:

By Mr. JEFFORDS, from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1536: A bill to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to extend authorizations of appropriations for programs under the Act, to modernize programs and services for older individuals, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 106-399).

By Mr. MURKOWSKI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1925: A bill to promote environmental restoration around the Lake Tahoe basin (Rept. No. 106-400).

S. 2048: A bill to establish the San Rafael Western Legacy District in the State of Utah, and for other purposes: (Rept. No. 106-401).

By Mr. MURKOWSKI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, without amendment:

S. 2069: A bill to permit the conveyance of certain land in Powell, Wyoming (Rept. No. 106-402).

By Mr. MURKOWSKI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment:

S. 2239: A bill to authorize the Bureau of Reclamation to provide cost sharing for the endangered fish recovery implementation programs for the Upper Colorado River and San Juan River basins (Rept. No. 106-403).

The following reports of committees were submitted today:

By Mr. GREGG, from the Committee on Appropriations:

Report to accompany H.R. 4690, a bill making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 106-404).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. CRAIG (for himself and Mr. CRAPO):

S. 3022. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain irrigation facilities to the Nampa and Meridian Irrigation District; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. THOMAS (for himself and Mr. ENZI):

S. Res. 350. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the Republic of

India's closed market to United States soda ash exports; to the Committee on Finance.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. CRAIG (for himself and Mr. CRAPO):

S. 3022. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain irrigation facilities to the Nampa and Meridian Irrigation District; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

NAMPA MERIDIAN IRRIGATION DISTRICT TRANSFER ACT

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I am today introducing, along with my colleague, Senator CRAPO a bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to transfer the Bureau of Reclamation's interests in portions of the Ridenbaugh Canal system of the Boise River to the Nampa Meridian Irrigation District. The public comment period for the National Environmental Policy Act process has not been completed, and it is my intent to request a Committee hearing to discuss any issues concerning this transfer. Thus, any parties interested in this matter will have ample opportunity to express their concerns related to title transfer.

The transfer of title is not a new idea. Authority to transfer title to the All American Canal is contained in section 7 of the Boulder Canyon Project Act of 1928. General authority is contained in the 1955 Distribution Systems Loan Act. Recently, Congress passed legislation dealing with a transfer to the Minidoka Irrigation Project and the Burley Irrigation District.

The Nampa Meridian Irrigation District diverts water from the Boise River into a system of canals and laterals known as the Ridenbaugh Canal system for delivery to lands in the district and provides drainage for district lands. Since 1878 when the Ridenbaugh Canal was first constructed, Nampa Meridian Irrigation District has been responsible for operating and maintaining the delivery and drainage system, and all project costs have been paid to the federal government.

Reclamation's interests consist of only five percent (5%) of the canals, laterals and drains and associated fee title and easements in their delivery and drainage systems. These segments were constructed for the delivery and drainage of irrigation water. The purposes and uses of Reclamation's interests in these segments are to access, operate, maintain, and repair Nampa Meridian Irrigation District's irrigation and drainage systems. Reclamation has never operated or maintained any portion of the Nampa Meridian Irrigation District's delivery or drainage systems.

This project is a perfect example of the federal government maintaining

only a bare title, and that title should now be transferred to the project recipients who have paid for the facilities and interests of the Nampa Meridian Irrigation District.

I ask unanimous consent that a copy of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 3022

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Nampa and Meridian Conveyance Act".

SEC. 2. CONVEYANCE.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) DISTRICT.—The term "District" means the Nampa and Meridian Irrigation District, Idaho.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

(b) CONVEYANCE OF FACILITIES.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall convey to the District, in accordance with the memorandum of agreement between the Secretary and the District, dated July 7, 1999 (contract No. 1425-99MA102500), and all applicable law, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to any portion of the canals, laterals, drains, and any other portion of the water distribution and drainage system that is operated or maintained by the District for delivery of water to and drainage of water from land within the boundaries of the District.

(c) LIABILITY.—Effective on the date of the conveyance of facilities under this Act, the United States shall not be liable for damages of any kind arising out of any act, omission, or occurrence based on prior ownership or operation of the conveyed facilities by the United States.

(d) EXISTING RIGHTS NOT AFFECTED.—

(1) NO EFFECT ON WATER RIGHTS.—No water rights shall be transferred, modified, or otherwise affected by the conveyance of facilities to the District under this Act.

(2) NO EFFECT ON CONTRACTUAL OR STATE LAW.—The conveyance of facilities and interests to the District under this Act shall not affect or abrogate any provision of a contract executed by the United States, or any State law, regarding any right of an irrigation district to use water developed in the facilities conveyed.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 1159

At the request of Mr. STEVENS, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. HOLLINGS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1159, a bill to provide grants and contracts to local educational agencies to initiate, expand, and improve physical education programs for all kindergarten through 12th grade students.

S. 1399

At the request of Mr. DEWINE, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1399, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide that pay adjustments for nurses and certain other